

REMARKS

Claims 1-23, 29-31, and 59 are pending and under consideration in view of Applicants' election made on October 26, 2007 in response to the Restriction Requirement issued on September 27, 2007. Claims 1, 10, and 11 have been amended herein to further clarify the subject matter being claimed. Claims 17-19, 29-31 and 59 have been cancelled herein without prejudice. Claims 24-28, 32-58, and 60-71 have been withdrawn herein from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention and have also been cancelled without prejudice. No new matter or new issue is being introduced by these amendments. Reconsideration of the present application and allowance of pending claims 1-16 and 20-23 are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and following remarks.

I. Restriction Requirement

The Office Action made final the previous restriction requirement. Accordingly, Applicants have withdrawn Claims 24-28, 32-58, and 60-71 herein, as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

II. Claim Objections

Claim 59 was objected to because it depends from non-elected claim 44. Applicants have canceled Claim 59 thereby rendering this objection moot.

III. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

Claims 30 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Applicants have canceled Claims 30 and 31, thereby rendering this rejection moot.

Claims 1-9 and 12-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Particularly, the Office Action alleges that the specification, while enabling for methods comprising culturing a pluipotent cell with a ceramide compound selected from N2-hydroxy-1-(hydroxymethyl)ethy)-palmitoylamide ("S16");

N-(2-hydroxy-1-(hydroxymethylethyl)-oleoylamide (“S18”); N,N-bis(2-hydroxyethyl)palmitoylamide (“B16”); N,N-bis(2-hydroxyethyl)oleoylamide (“B18”); N-tris(hydroxymethyl)methyl-palmitoylamide (“T16”); N-tris(hydroxymethyl)methyl-oleoylamide (“T18”); N-acetyl sphingosine (“C2-ceramide”); and N-hexanolysphingosine (C6-ceramide), does not reasonably provide enablement for methods comprising administration of *all* the compounds of the formula recited in Claim 1. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to recite that “a ceramide compound selected from the group consisting of N-(2-hydroxy-1-(hydroxymethyl)ethyl)-palmitoylamide (“S16”), N-(2-hydroxy-1-(hydroxymethyl)ethyl)-oleoylamide (“S18”), N,N-bis(2-hydroxyethyl)palmitoylamide (“B16”), N,N-bis(2-hydroxyethyl)oleoylamide (“B18”) N-tris(hydroxymethyl)methyl-palmitoylamide (“T16”), N-tris(hydroxymethyl)methyl-oleoylamide (“T18”), N-acetyl sphingosine (“C2-ceramide”), and N-hexanoylsphingosine (“C6-ceramide”).” As the Office Action indicated, the specification does enable for methods comprising culturing a pluripotent cell with these specifically identified ceramide compounds [*See for example*, Example 3, paragraphs [0100] and [0105], Examples 4, 9, 10, and 12]. Furthermore, Applicants also cancelled Claims 17-19 without prejudice.

Therefore, Applicants submit that the specification as filed, enables one skilled in the art to make and use the invention commensurate in scope with the amended Claim 1 (and dependent claims therefrom), *i.e.*, a method of producing a human neural cell comprising providing a pluripotent human cell, and culturing the pluripotent human cell with a composition comprising a ceramide compound, as specifically identified. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections to Claims 1-9 and 12-23 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement, be withdrawn.

IV. Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

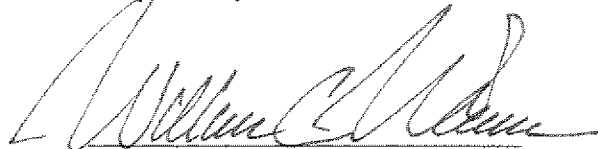
The Office Action rejected Claims 29 and 59 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,833,269 to Carpenter *et al.* Claims 29 and 59 have been canceled, thereby rendering the rejection with respect to these claims moot.

CONCLUSION

Applicants submit that the present application, as amended, is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action mailed January 24, 2008.

No fees are believed due at this time. However, please charge any fees that may be due, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 19-5029 (Ref. No.: 18377-0059). In addition, if there are any issues that can be resolved by a telephone conference or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is invited and encouraged to call the undersigned attorney at (404) 853-8000.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William L. Warren', is written over a horizontal line.

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